

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 20 are in the application, with Claims 1, 16, and 19 being the independent claims. Claims 3, 8 to 12, 17, and 18 were withdrawn from consideration pursuant to an election of species requirement. Reconsideration and further consideration are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 13, and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 4,274,044 (Barre) in view of U.S. Publication No. 2001/0035180 (Kimura). Claims 4 to 7, 15, 19, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Barre in view of Kimura, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,515,218 (Shimizu). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

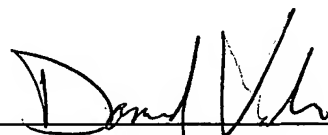
Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended to Applicants' undersigned representative during the personal interview conducted on June 23, 2005. During the interview, the Examiner tentatively agreed that the amendments made herein would overcome the outstanding rejections. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Claim 1 is believed to be generic to the species in non-elected Claims 3, 8 to 12, and 18, and Claim 16 is believed to be generic to the species in non-elected Claim 17. Accordingly, rejoinder of the non-elected claims is respectfully requested. See MPEP § 806.04(d).

No other matters being raised, the entire application is believed to be fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa,
California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to
our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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